

REMARKS

Claims 1-68 were presented for examination and were pending in this application. In the latest Office Action, claims 1-68 were rejected. With this amendment, claims 1, 30, and 51 are amended. On the basis of the following remarks, consideration of this application and allowance of all pending claims are requested.

Claims 1, 2, 6-8, 19, 20, 22, 26-31, 35-37, 48, 49, 51, 52, 56-58, 67, and 68 were rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,774,951 to Narushima.

Independent claims 1, 30, and 51 have been amended to recite that “the printed representation includes meta data associated with the electronic representation of the time-based media at a plurality of times thereof.” Unlike previous systems, including those described in the cited references, the claimed invention does not print time-based media by merely reproducing selected frames of the media in printed and/or electronic form. Instead, the printed representation includes meta data that provide information about the time-based media at various points in time. The meta data are associated with the electronic representation of the time-based media. Because of the claimed relationship between these printed and electronic representations, the claimed invention enables applications that provide useful information about media in the time domain.

Paragraphs 49 to 63 of the specification describe various example embodiments of the media processing system, which generates the printed and electronic representations of the time-based media. In various embodiments, the printed representations include various types of meta data associated with the electronic representation of the time-based media. In one example, the meta data may allow for quick retrieval of the time-based media at specific time points. In another example, the meta data may provide useful information about the time-based media

associated with particular points in time. In this way, the printed representation is more than a mere snapshot of the time-based media; rather, it provides useful information about the media for multiple time points — i.e., in the time dimension.

Taking, for example, an embodiment presented in paragraph 57 of the specification, an embodiment of the claimed invention is applied to provide useful information about a digital audio file. As the specification explains:

In one embodiment, the printer 100 converts a digital audio file, such as a MIDI file, into a paper representation as a musical score. Optionally, the printer 100 also converts the input data to another audio format, such as MP3, that could be played on other devices, such as a cell phone. Bar codes can be added to a printed paper representation of the media to let the user play the audio corresponding to lines of music on a remote device or through the speaker on the printer.

In this example, the printer produces a printed representation of the digital audio file (here, the “time-based media”) that may include a score and bar codes (here, the “meta data”) associated with the audio. The electronic representation may be another audio file, which may be converted into another format if desired. The score is associated with music contained in the audio file, and the bar codes may be associated with specific time locations in the audio file. In this way, the printed representation contains useful meta data about the electronic representation for various time points of the time-based data as it is represented in the electronic representation.

The cited references, and Narushima in particular, do not disclose these claimed features. Like many other video printing systems, Narushima merely prints selected frames from a received video signal. Narushima does not enable the specialized functionalities enabled by the claimed inventions, as Narushima’s printed output does not contain the useful meta data that is associated with certain time points in the time-based media, as it is represented in the electronic representation.

Accordingly, claims 1, 30, and 51 are novel and patentable over the cited references. Each of claims 2, 6-8, 19, 20, 22, 26-29, 31, 35-37, 48, 49, 52, 56-58, 67, and 68 depends from claim 1, 30, or 51 and is therefore novel over Narushima for the reasons outlined above.

The remaining claims were rejected as made obvious by Narushima in combination with one or more additional references. In each of these obviousness rejections, Narushima was expressly applied to the claims in the same way it was applied to claims 1, 30, or 50. For the reasons stated above, therefore, these dependent claims, as amended by the amendments to their corresponding independent claims, are likewise patentable over the cited references.

Based on the foregoing, the application is in condition for allowance of all claims, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the examiner believes for any reason direct contact would help advance the prosecution of this case to allowance, the examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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